Dr. Margaret MacMillan, recipient of the 2021 Pritzker Military Museum & Library’s Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing, will be featured at the Museum & Library’s annual symposium. The symposium will consider the current state of military history under the theme of “What is Military History Today.” Individual panel sessions will explore and identify today’s challenges in researching, writing, and presenting military history, and how they are impacted by the needs and interests of diverse audiences. Perspectives from the academic community, military professionals, and the general public will be considered.

The anticipated audience of 200 attendees will be comprised of educators/academics, professional historians and scholars, students, amateur historians, military history enthusiasts, veterans, active military and military involved professionals, and PMML members.

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THURSDAY: SESSION 1
What is Military History Today?
The symposium will kick off with a panel comprised of senior scholars in the military history field, including prior recipients of the Pritzker Literature Award. This discussion will broadly consider the theme with the goal of all participants sharing the insights that they have gleaned from researching, teaching, publishing, and working with various institutions and organizations concerned with military history.

Panel Chair:
Ivo H. Daalder, Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Panelists:
Beth Bailey, University of Kansas
Allan R. Millett, Ohio State University
Michael Neiberg, U.S. Army War College

KEYNOTE:
Dr. Margaret MacMillan will offer context on the questions discussed in the opening panel in her keynote address Thursday evening, which will consider how scholars and writers have engaged with military history over the course of her career.

FRIDAY: SESSION 1
Museums and Memorialization
Comprised of museum professionals in military history, this panel will seek to explore the roles that museums play in the commemoration of military service, and how they are impacted by popular and academic understandings of military history.

Panel Chair:
Krewasky Salter, First Division Museum at Cantigny Park
Panelists:
Tammy E. Call, National Museum of the U. S. Army
Matthew C. Naylor, National World War I Museum
Margaret MacMillan, University of Toronto

FRIDAY: SESSION 2
Violence, Atrocity, and Restraint in War
This panel will explore how military historians address the extent of violence employed by armed forces, how they treat incidents of atrocity, the contexts in which they occur, and how they examine and evaluate efforts of military organizations to observe limits on the use of force.

Panel Chair:
John Morrow, University of Georgia
Panelists:
Greg Daddis, San Diego State University
Noriko Kawamura, Washington State University
Margaret MacMillan, University of Toronto

FRIDAY: SESSION 3
Military History of the Post-Cold War
The symposium will conclude with a final session on Friday afternoon and will consider the lessons to be learned in writing military history of the post-Cold War period. This panel is comprised of military history scholars who are currently engaged in researching, writing, and evaluating the histories of military operations since the 1990s. The military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are of particular interest in this session, and the panelists will assess and consider how different audiences, particularly academics and military professionals, use these histories.

Panel Chair:
Antulio J. Echevarria II, U.S. Army War College
Panelists:
Anthony E. Carlson, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies
Daniel Marston, John Hopkins University
Mary Elizabeth Walters, U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College